

Message Text

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15

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2165

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BATAAN DAY EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE

1. THEME OF THIS YEAR'S BATAAN DAY CELEBRATION, AS PRONOUNCED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS IN APRIL 10 SPEECH AND AMPLIFIED BY MEDIA, HAS BEEN NEED FOR PHILIPPINE SELF-RELIANCE. IN HIS SPEECH MARCOS NOTED THAT AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS DIED TOGETHER BEFORE JAPANESE ONSLAUGHT AND OBSERVED THAT IT WAS "NOT THE FAULT OF AMERICA" THAT PHILIPPINES NOT SAVED FROM AGRESSOR IN 1942. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED (IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH) "LESSON" THAT "IF ONCE AGAIN WE FACE ANY DANGER TO THIS COUNTRY AND TO OUR PEOPLE, NEVER SHOULD WE DEPEND ON ANY OTHER EXCEPT OURSELVES, OUR OWN STRENGTH".

2. COMMENT: MESSAGE ACCORDS WITH STANDARD NEW SOCIETY EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE, BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO HEAR THIS THEME PREDOMINATE AT SACRED NATIONAL CELEBRATION COMMEMORATING FACT THAT AMERICAN AND FILIPINOS "SHED BLOOD TOGETHER" AND STILL STAND TOGETHER. ALTERATION OF FOCUS THIS YEAR PRESUMABLY OWES SOMETHING TO FACT RUMANIAN PRESIDENT INVITED PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONIES. WE WOULD ASSUME IT ALSO REFLECTS IMPACT OF RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA AND, BY MINIMIZING ATTENTION PAID TO U.S. ALLIANCE, COMPLEMENTS FIRST LADY'S PREOCCUPATION WITH "THIRD WORLD".

SULLIVAN

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